



December 16, 2009

The Honorable David Obey
Chair
Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-Education
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tom Harkin
Chair
Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-Education
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Todd Tiahrt
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-Education
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
Washington DC 20515

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-Education
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Obey, Chairman Harkin, Representative Tiahrt, and Senator Cochran:

On behalf of the more than 300 patient groups, scientific and medical societies, research institutions, and industry organizations that comprise the Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research, thank you for providing an increase for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in the Consolidated FY 2010 Appropriations Act (H.R. 3288). We are grateful that the bill exceeds the President's budget request for NIH by \$250 million, especially since the bill also funds many other critical public health and human services programs. Your leadership on behalf of the nation's medical research enterprise is deeply appreciated by the scientific community and the patients and health care professionals that will benefit from the world-class research supported and conducted by NIH.

Combined with the historic investment in NIH through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, the funding provided in the FY 2010 Consolidated Appropriations Act will enhance NIH's capacity to advance science to improve health and power economic growth. Sustaining this momentum is essential to fostering scientific discovery and the biomedical innovations that enhance the health and well-being of the American people.

Once again, we thank you for your tireless efforts and continued leadership in support of NIH, and we look forward to working with you in FY 2011.

Sincerely,

David B. Moore
Executive Director
Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research